

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A retaining keeper assembly for a hoisting device, which assembly comprises:  
2                 a shank having a plurality of circumferential grooves perpendicular to an axis of said  
3 shank;  
4                 a thrust bearing surrounding said shank and supported by said hoisting device;  
5                 a split retaining collar having a plurality of interior circular protrusions which mate  
6 with said circumferential grooves in said shank;  
7                 a cylindrical retaining collar cover having a closed top and an open bottom, said  
8 retaining collar cover having an inner diameter slightly larger than an outer diameter of said retaining  
9 collar; and  
10                a fastener mechanism to fasten said retaining collar cover to said split retaining collar.

1           2.     A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said hoisting device is  
2 a pulley block having a cylindrical recess with a diameter slightly greater than said retaining collar  
3 cover.

1           3.     A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 2 including a circular seal between  
2 said retaining collar cover and said cylindrical recess of said pulley block to create a liquid tight seal.

1           4.     A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 1 including a circular seal between  
2 said retaining collar cover and said hoisting device to create a liquid tight seal.

1           5.     A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 1 including a bushing juxtaposed  
2     between said hoisting device and said shank below said thrust bearing.

1           6.     A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said fastener mechanism  
2     includes a plurality of threaded screws received through a plurality of openings in said top of said  
3     retaining collar cover wherein said screws are received in threaded openings in said split retaining  
4     collar.

1           7.     A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 1 including a fastener between said  
2     cover and said shank.

1           8.     A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said split retaining collar  
2     is a pair of semi-circular halves.

1           9.     A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said shank supports a  
2     hook or hooks.

1           10.    A retaining keeper assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said shank supports a  
2     swivel.

1           11.    A method of installing a retaining keeper assembly for a hoisting device wherein  
2     such method comprises:

3 installing a thrust bearing surrounding a shank supported against said hoisting device;  
4 installing a shank having a plurality of circumferential grooves in said hoisting device  
5 wherein said grooves are perpendicular to an axis of said shank;  
6 installing a split retaining collar having a plurality of interior circular protrusions  
7 around said grooves of said shank;  
8 sliding a cylindrical retaining collar cover over said split retaining collar and said  
9 shank;  
10 securing said retaining collar cover to said collar and shank; and  
11 installing a circular seal over said retaining collar cover between said cap and said  
12 device.

1 12. A method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said split retaining collar is split into a pair  
2 of semi-circular halves.

1 13. A method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said cylindrical retaining collar cover has  
2 an open bottom and a closed top.

1 14. A method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said step of securing said cap to said shank  
2 includes fastening threaded bolts through openings through said cover and into said cover.

1 15. A method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein the steps are performed in reverse order  
2 to disassemble the retaining keeper assembly.